

ALL EARS

www.earsclub.org

Official Newsletter of the Escondido Amateur Radio Society - N6WB

March 2009

GENERAL MEETINGS

EARS meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month at the Salvation Army building at 1301 Las Villas Way, in Escondido. Come early and chat!

Thursday, March 12

Part 1: The New Digital TV System,
by John Musselman, N6EP.

Part 2: Understanding and Mitigating WiFi Interference, by Vince Sheetz, W6CD.

Thursday, April 9

Annual Club Auction

With Art, KC6UQH, as auctioneer, this event looks to be another great evening of bargain hunting. Look for all the rules in next month's issue.

Thursday, May 14

Quiz Night by Steve, W6TAN

Sharpen your pencils and get ready to reach into the depths of your memory. Only top hams can claim the crown.

ALL EARS

The official bulletin of the
Escondido Amateur Radio Society

An e-mail subscription to All Ears is FREE! You don't need to be a member. Just drop a note to:

John Musselman, N6EP, Editor
n6ep@arrl.net

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The deadline to submit material for the bulletin is by the previous month's Board meeting.

EVENT CALENDAR

Mar 12

EARS Monthly Meeting, 7 p.m.

Mar 17

Field Day Planning Meeting, 7 p.m.

Mar 21

Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.

Mar 24

EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Mar 28

VE Testing, 9 a.m.

Apr 9

EARS Annual Auction, 6 p.m.

Apr 18

Ears Monthly Breakfast, 8:30 a.m.

Apr 21

Field Day Planning Meeting, 7 p.m.

Apr 25

VE Testing, 9 a.m.

Apr 28

EARS Board Meeting, 7 p.m.



The Amgen Tour of California bike race takes a tour of Escondido and EARS helps out! Story on page 4.

- photo courtesy N6SUN

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Tour de Force - p. 4

Pacificon Update - p. 5

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Steve, W6TAN, President

Hi all,

The past month has again been a little limited for me as far as Ham Radio activities are concerned. The main reason for this is that I had a relative from the UK staying with me for a while, and Gina and I had to do the 'tour-guide' stuff.

However, I did manage to play a little more with my new D-Star radio in preparation for February's club meeting. I enjoyed the presentation given by Ken and Cecil. However I was a little bemused as we were told that it was going to be a presentation on D-Star, and the PAPA system - rather than D-Star's role in emergency communications.

I and a few others whom I've talked to since are still unclear as to what the D-Star system is and how it works. I personally don't have time to do any research into it, and that's what I was hoping the presentation was going to be about. Unfortunately, I'm still not convinced about it as a good mode of operation, especially with the cost of the equipment, and the audio quality. Time will tell...

One thing that I did find out about at the meeting was that on the Saturday following the presentation there was going to be a special event station on the USS Midway incorporating a D-Star set-up. Apparently, the special event station is active on one Saturday each month, and is always looking for volunteers to help out. So if you ever find yourself with a little spare time on your hands you know where to go! The call sign is N16IW, so if ever hear them on the bands - be sure to work them.

As I mentioned in my last letter, the EARS website is now back up-and-running with all of its former functionality. One new feature that I've added is the ability for the board members to e-mail all of the EARS membership. The reason for this is to improve notification of EARS events. As you may know, most of our notifications go through either the Yahoo! or Google groups' reflectors/message board. Unfortunately, there are only about 65 members on the Yahoo! groups, and not all of these are EARS members. The current EARS member count is around 107 (assuming that by the time you read this you have paid your dues for 2009!), and not all of these have Yahoo / Google accounts.

If you have a valid e-mail address stored in the EARS database, you should have seen a couple of e-mails from earsmail@earsclub.org. If you don't have a current email address on file, and you wish to receive either EARS event notifications (or receive the e-mail edition of All EARS), then let either John

Musselman, N6EP, or myself know - and we'll update your information.

So, if you haven't looked at the EARS website for a while, have a look-see, and let me know if there's something that doesn't work for you. One of the updates that I've been doing is to make it more consistent between the myriad of different browsers available. Unfortunately I can't test every one!

One ham event that Gina, KI6UQP, and I helped out with was the AMGEN bike race. I'm not going to say too much about it - only to say that it was a long 'fun' day. I'm sure Dirk, N6SUN, who organized the EARS involvement in Escondido, will have more to say, and maybe even some photos of the event.

Another event that is looming on the horizon is (dare I say it?) Field Day! Yes - it's that time of the year again, and although it's still a few months away, the first of the planning meetings will be held on Tuesday, 17th of March, at the Salvation Army building. The meeting starts at 7:00 p.m., so if you are interested in operating / helping out, please feel free to join us. If you have any questions - e-mail Jeff Murdock, AE6GM.

Finally... One last thing to mention is that we have once again secured the display cabinet at the Escondido library. If any of you have any donations that you think would be useful to put out on display - contact Kurt Barnhart, N6MD, to organize collection / delivery, or even better - bring them to the club meeting on the 12th!

Well, that's all from me for now... Everyone have a great month, and hopefully see you at the next meeting.

Cheers for now, Steve, W6TAN.

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The Escondido Amateur Radio Society

is a non-profit organization of educational and social benefit to Amateur Radio operators and others interested in Amateur Radio in the Escondido area.

Dues are very affordable. Come join the fun! See the application form on Page 6.

FREE ADS -- by John, N6EP

The economy is tight and people and businesses are counting their pennies. But EARS ads are FREE! Submit your want ad or your business card now.

HAM RADIO OUTLET

Open 10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Monday through Saturday

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ALL EARS Advertising Policy

All EARS accepts ads free of charge at the Editor's discretion. Ads should be of interest to Ham Radio operators in the Escondido area. This includes personal ads, ads for Ham Radio related businesses and for member's businesses.

All ads are accepted at the Editor's discretion and on run on a space-available basis.

TOUR DE FORCE

-- by Dirk, N6SUN

EARS does it again...

Based on the work we did at First Night, the City of Escondido Police Dept requested the same type of operation from the EARS club to assist at the Amgen Tour of California which finished in Escondido on February 22. What started as a request for volunteers on the EARS Sunday night net, turned into yet another impressive demonstration of amateur radio in action. Thank you to everyone who participated.



Dirk, N6SUN, served as bicycle mobile.
- photo courtesy N6SUN

Planning: Working with Jack Burns, KY5OAO, we embarked on a plan that would provide 100% visual coverage using the minimum number of operators. This was important because the pool of volunteers was spread over a much wider area. Valley Center CERT and the Palomar Volunteer Fire Department drew heavily on the volunteer amateur population. While I was searching for volunteers, Jack drove the route numerous times scouting out ideal locations. Jack also produced maps that identified an operator's location. A big thank you to Jack who spent hours working on the route plan and maps. Finally, with enough operators and a plan to execute, we looked forward to the big day.

Waiting: On race day, we had 15 operators spread out across the course within the city limits of

Escondido. However, similar to parade duty, there was a lot of waiting... What many didn't know, and wasn't reported in the news, was that there was a potential homicide on the south grade of Palomar that threatened to change the course. However, it was ruled a suicide and with that the cyclists were set to climb Palomar. Had the course been modified, the riders would come roaring through Escondido much sooner. And as it turns out, it was very important to provide the 100% coverage as the cyclists arrived in five separate groups (Palomar definitely took a toll on the riders splitting them into at least three groups). Each time a group of cyclists passed by a post, that station would report their position. Then the next station would watch for them. Chuck Milks (CERT guy) was out in the field and had a Yaesu VX-170 in hand. He was monitoring the traffic from net control (thank you Jeff, AE6GM) and what the posted stations were reporting. He was also impressed by our coverage.



Jeff, AE6GM, serves as net control for the race.
- photo courtesy N6SUN.

The Thrill: While this was similar to parade duty, the racers came through much faster and our work was concluded in a window of 20 minutes. I read where the cyclists were descending down the Wohlford grade reaching speeds of 55 mph. For most of Escondido, along El Norte, they probably were going in excess of 40 mph. After roving most of the day, I concluded my work at Valley Parkway and Escondido Blvd where I caught a brief glimpse as they came through. What a scene... It brought a lot of people downtown and the crowds downtown didn't disperse until it was beginning to get dark. Will the course end up in Escondido again? I do know this... An Amgen official was quoted saying that the San Diego area had the most number of people along the

continued on page 5

K6DAF's RAMBLIN'S

-- by Doug, N6DAF

Here we are in March already it just amazes me how fast the time flies. But one good thing is the weather is going to start getting better. And our daylight hours are going to get longer which means we have longer time to play radio. This time of year starts us thinking of upcoming events like the auction, the annual picnic and Cruzin' Grand. Will talk about these later but for now just keep in mind these great events coming up.

For those who were able to attend the February meeting, I hope you enjoyed our presentation by Cecil and Ken dealing with the PAPA System and D-Star. I know I enjoyed the presentation and many I spoke to after really enjoyed it also. So here is a thank you to Cecil and Ken from the EARS group for taking their time to enlighten us on the topics of the PAPA System and D-Star.

Now moving onto our March meeting, we have Vince Sheetz, W6CD, giving us a talk on the following:

How "Fi" is your WiFi??

Understanding and Mitigating RF Interference to WiFi Devices

Agenda:

What is WiFi Interference?

- Affects of Interference on WiFi
- Top Interference Sources for WiFi
- Discussion of Devices That Cause Interference to WiFi
- Mitigations and Alternate Technologies
- WiFi interference to Ham Radio and Ham Radio interference to WiFi

We also will have John Musselman, N6EP, giving us an update on the digital TV conversion prior to our presentation from Vince. The March meeting looks to be a great event and hope you all can attend.

At our last board meeting, I volunteered to get some prices and samples of a hat with our EARS logo on it. Update: I will have a sample of the hat at the meeting and will talk to everyone on how to get one. I also have arranged with the Print Shop to design a patch for the back of a jacket or t-shirt and will have that info also.

Well for now hope to see you at the meeting the 12th of March. Auction is coming in April so get your stuff out.

73, Doug, K6DAF

PACIFICON UPDATE

-- from Bob, W6RGG

Pacificon 2009 to be hosted by EMCOMMWEST, May 1, 2, and 3, at the Circus Circus Hotel, Reno, NV

The Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club has decided not to sponsor the Pacificon Convention this year. EMCOMMWEST, the second largest Amateur Radio Convention in the Pacific Division, has very kindly agreed to host Pacificon by expanding program matter and adding Friday presentations. The keynote speaker will be Steve Ewald, WV1X, Field Organization Supervisor from ARRL HQ; and the banquet speaker will be Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, who was in charge of Amateur Radio rules enforcement at the FCC when he retired.

Thanks and 73,

Bob Vallio, W6RGG
Director, Pacific Division

TOUR DE FORCE

-- by Dirk, N6SUN

continued from page 4

course than any day during any of the four previous races. The crowds were also the loudest. I can see them coming back to hit Palomar again for sure, but to finish in Escondido...? Well, I treated it as a once in a lifetime opportunity. I hope you did too!

Background: The Amgen Tour of California is a world class cycling event similar to Tour de France and this was the fourth running. It is the largest professional cycling event held in the United States. It brings to the United States many of the cyclists you will see on the world stage. And best of all, our own Lance Armstrong was riding this year. By the way, Lance was not out to win this one and in fact ready to do anything in his power to help teammate Levi Leipheimer (who lives in CA). Lance is also trying to raise the awareness for finding a cure for cancer. Escondido was the last stage of an eight stage race. Also, just so you know, if you watched the coverage and you witnessed all the characters on the mountain (man with antlers, sumo wrestlers, etc) this is a normal part of cycling. So if your out-of-state family watched the race and made fun of the nutty Californian's on the mountains, tell them we're just following the cycling traditions.

Thanks again to everyone who helped at the event. You made it a success!

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

information provided by Vivian, W6NWF

1. Jeff, AE6GM, reported that we are able to get EchoLink through the 220 repeater now. and that the 220 and VHF are linked now.
2. Steve, W6TAN, reported that the website is up and running and all those present agreed that it looks good. He still has more things to work on.
3. Dirk, N6SUN, reported that he is making progress on the 1023 application and expects this to be completed by May 2009.
4. Jo, KB6NMK, reported that she has two 20' push-up masts in her yard that need to find new homes.
5. Jeff, AE6GM, reported that the Repeater/Echolink instructions are finished and are now on the website.
6. Steve, W6TAN, said that the process for adding/updating members to the database needs to be agreed and clarified, and reiterated that it needs to be done promptly.
7. Reminder that Kurt Barnhardt, N6MD, will want items for the Library display at the next meeting, 12

March 2009.

8. Dirk, N6SUN, reported that the Amgen race went well and that there was a nice flow of cyclists. Jack Burns, KY6OAO, was very helpful in the planning stages of this event for EARS. Jeff, AE6GM, was also very helpful in the planning stages, as well as in the Command Van.
9. Help for Major David of the Salvation Army went well and we got Major David's, KG6QDS, 2m antenna installed and working. We also received a "Thank you" card from him and his family.
10. The next Field Day meeting will be 17 March 2009, 7:00 pm, here at the Salvation Army building. Jeff, AE6GM, will need someone to be the CW Captain as Steve Alborn, KE6PY, is unable to do it this year, but Steve can be an operator.
11. Dirk, N6SUN, will contact DBA regarding EARS getting a more permanent position for Cruisin' Grand in the front (not on a side street) so EARS can have a table with info, etc.

Escondido Amateur Radio Society Membership Application and Renewal Form

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Membership Rates

One year \$15.00
Family membership \$4.00
Lifetime membership \$150.00
Lifetime membership (family) \$38.00

Mail this form with payment to EARS, PO Box 3243, Escondido, CA 92033, or give it to the treasurer or any other club officer at a regular club meeting.

Membership is from January 1 to December 31. After July 1, membership to the end of the year is ½ the annual fee. Special rates apply for family membership for each additional licensed amateur radio operator in your immediate family and for lifetime membership.

For membership confirmation, include a self-addressed stamped envelope with this form.

GENERAL INFORMATION

CLUB REPEATERS - EARS operates two repeaters in Escondido. The two meter EARS repeater is on 146.88 MHz with a PL of 107.2. The 440 EARS repeater is on 449.240 MHz with a PL of 127.3. Both repeaters are local in nature and primarily serve the immediate Escondido area.

ECHO-LINK - The two meter repeater is tied to the Echo-Link system as node 2846. See the Club website, www.earsclub.org, for information on Echo-Link. There is also a listing of local Echo-Link codes in the members section of the website.

EARS WEB PAGE - EARS is on the Internet. You can read about upcoming activities, get links to other ham radio sites, read back issues of All Ears, or update your call or address. The site is updated regularly. Check it out at www.earsclub.org.

EARS REFLECTOR – is a free service that keeps members up-to-date via e-mail. To get on the reflector, go to the EARS website and click on Yahoo Groups in the site map. If you have any questions, suggestions or comments, e-mail any club officer.

CLUB BADGES - Let everyone know that you are a member of EARS and avoid having them guess what your name is. See Harry, W6YOO, to obtain a badge. The price is \$8.00

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR CALLSIGN - Please let us know if you change your address, callsign, telephone, license class, e-mail, etc. We want to keep our records up to date. Contact any club officer.

ARRL LETTER - The ARRL Letter, a weekly e-mailing of Amateur Radio related news, is available to ARRL members free of charge directly from ARRL HQ. To subscribe for e-mail delivery, ARRL members first must register on the Members Only Website, www.arrl.org/members. The ARRL Letter is also available to all, free of charge, at www.arrl.org/arrlletter, where it is posted each Friday after it is distributed via e-mail.

SANDARC - EARS is a member of the San Diego Amateur Radio Council, an association of San Diego area Amateur Radio clubs. Among other things, SANDARC runs the local Volunteer Examiner program (SANDARC-VEC), and manages the ARRL Southwestern Division Convention when held in San Diego every fourth year. See www.sandarc.org.

MONTHLY BREAKFAST - EARS members meet socially the third Saturday of each month at the Westside Cafe, on West Ninth Ave. at the corner of Redwood St. at 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY EVENING NET is every Sunday at 8 p.m. local time. You can get the latest information on club activities there. Tune in to the club repeater at 146.88 MHz, negative offset and PL of 107.2, check in and say hi.

MONTHLY ARES® MEETING – The San Diego Section ARES® meets on the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at Scripps Memorial Hospital, Nobel Room, Schaetzel Building, 9890 Genesee Ave, La Jolla, CA 92037. Park in the first lot to the right after the guard shack. Parking is \$2.00 and is antenna friendly. If interested, go to www.sdgares.net or contact Steve Early, Section Manager, 619-461-2818, or ad6vi@arrl.org.

SECTION NEWS – The latest happenings around San Diego are available at www.arrl.org/sections/SDG.html, the official website of the ARRL San Diego Section.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE RENEWALS AND CHANGE OF ADDRESS - To renew your license or supply the FCC with a change of address, use NCVEC Form 605 (obtainable from Harry, W6YOO). Attach a photocopy of your license and mail to SANDARC VEC, 5511 Maryland Drive, La Mesa, CA 91942-1519. You must include your FRN Number. There is no charge for this service.

HAM RADIO LICENSE PLATES - All California hams may receive their call sign on their license plate. Use DMV Form REG17A. The cost is \$21.00 and is a one-time fee.

VE TESTING - A SANDARC Volunteer Examiner team administers license examinations on the last Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the LDS Church, 1917 East Washington Avenue, Escondido, 92025. Contact Harry, W6YOO, at (760) 743-4212 or w6yoo@amsat.org to schedule an appointment.

MILITARY AFFILIATE RADIO SYSTEM - The US Army, the US Air Force, and the US Navy/Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) are looking for a few good men/women. See Harry, W6YOO/AAR9LX for details.